

State Board of Education Authorization Approval

Re: Thea Bowman Leadership Academy

June 1, 2016

Lindsay Omlor
Director of Charter Schools

Our Vision and Mission

- **Vision:** Education One's vision is to lead the *transformation* of public education in Indiana, and serve as a national role model for charter school authorizing and accountability
- **Mission:** Education One's mission is to provide *quality* public school options for Indiana students, families, and communities through:
 - A comprehensive application review process;
 - Continuous oversight;
 - Meaningful support; and
 - Active engagement.
- **Per IC 20-24-2.1-2, Education One's duties are as follows:**
- We have established a process to:
 - (a) review a proposal to establish a charter school
 - (b) make a decision on the proposal; and
 - (c) monitor charter schools sponsored by the charter board.
- When partnering with schools, Education One always assesses whether its actions will further the *best interests of students* and strives to set both *high academic achievement expectations*, as well as high expectations for boards and school leaders.

Transforming Our Portfolio

School	Grades	Established	Organizer	Model	Status
Indiana Cyber	K-12	2012	Self-Managed	Online	CLOSED
Timothy L. Johnson Academy	K-6	2002	Leona Group L.L.C.	Traditional	TURN-AROUND
Indiana Life Science Academy	K-8	2009	Imagine Schools Inc.	STEM	CLOSING
Indiana Achievement Academy	9-12	2014	Self-Managed	Blended	CLOSED
Career Academy South Bend High School	9-12	2015	Self-Managed	Career Academy	New
Career Academy South Bend Middle School	5-8	2015	Self-Managed	Career Academy	New
Success Academy South Bend Primary	K-4	2015	Self-Managed	STEM	New
Thea Bowman Leadership Academy	K-12	2003 (2016)	Phalen Leadership Academy	Traditional	Pending

Pursuant to IC 20-24-4-1.5

- Request for Proposal Review by the State Board of Education
- Collaboration with previous Authorizer
- Thea Bowman Leadership Academy – Deficiency Report

Pursuant to IC 20-24-4-1.5:

- ✓ **Request for Proposal Review by the State Board of Education**
- On Monday, May 23, 2016, Education One submitted a letter to Tim Schultz, Deputy General Counsel, State Board of Education
- This letter was a formal request for consideration of our proposal to authorize Thea Bowman Leadership Academy, in partnership with Phalen Leadership Academy



May 23, 2016

Mr. Tim Schultz
Deputy General Counsel
Indiana State Board of Education
143 West Market Street, Suite 500
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Re: Trine University/Education One, LLC & Thea Bowman Leadership Academy

Dear Mr. Schultz:

Pursuant to IC 20-24-4-1.5, I am writing this letter to inform you that Education One, LLC. received a proposal from Thea Bowman Leadership Academy (TBLA) on May 15, 2016. It is the intention of Education One to move forward with the authorization of TBLA, pending approval by the State Board of Education.

Please accept this letter as a request to consider our proposal at the upcoming meeting on June 1, 2016.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lindsay Omlor".

Lindsay Omlor
Managing Director
Education One, LLC.

Pursuant to IC 20-24-4-1.5:

- ✓ **Collaboration with previous Authorizer**
- Education One has had ongoing conversations and collaboration with the Ball State University Office of Charter Schools, including:
 - April 25, 2016:** Lindsay Omlor/Bob Marra emailed multiple times regarding TBLA
 - April 27, 2016:** Lindsay Omlor called Bob Marra and spoke regarding the history of TBLA as well as deficiencies
 - April 28, 2016:** Lindsay Omlor attended a meeting at the Statehouse regarding TBLA – other attendees included, Rep. Behning, James Betley, Tony Walker, Earl Martin Phalen, Sam Snideman (BSU), Julie Halbig (BSU), and Bob Marra via phone
 - May 2, 2016:** Lindsay Omlor called Jamie Garwood (BSU) and spoke regarding TBLA deficiencies and the potential to bring in a parent group to run the school
 - May 16, 2016:** Bob Marra called Lindsay Omlor to discuss TBLA and parent, Taryl Bonds
 - May 16, 2016:** Jamie Garwood emailed Lindsay Omlor regarding TBLA and parent, Taryl Bonds
 - May 20, 2016:** Lindsay Omlor called Bob Marra to and spoke regarding the upcoming Education One meeting
 - May 23, 2016:** Lindsay Omlor called Bob Marra and left a voicemail notifying him of Education One's decision to authorize TBLA

Pursuant to IC 20-24-4-1.5:

- ✓ **Thea Bowman Leadership Academy – Deficiency Report**
- After thorough review of Ball State’s non-renewal decision, including conversations with:
 - Tony Walker and Michael Suggs, Drexel Board Members
 - Sarita Stevens and Michael Collins, TBLA School Leaders
 - Earl Martin Phalen, Phalen Leadership Academy
 - Robert Marra and Jamie Garwood, Ball State University Office of Charter Schools
 - Taryl Bonds, TBLA Parent
 - James Betley, Indiana Charter School Board
 - Jeff Barber and Brenda Martz, IDOE

Three major deficiencies were noted, including:

- Board Governance
- Decline in Academic Performance
- Title I/II Compliance

Deficiency: Board Governance

- School Board was self-managing the school, but lacked proper capacity to do so
- By-Laws were not in compliance

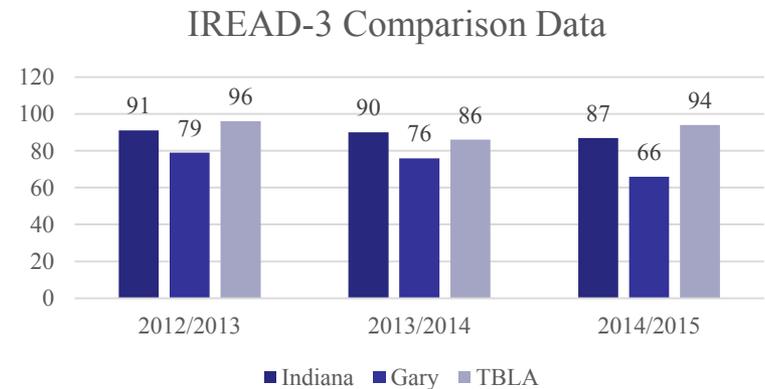
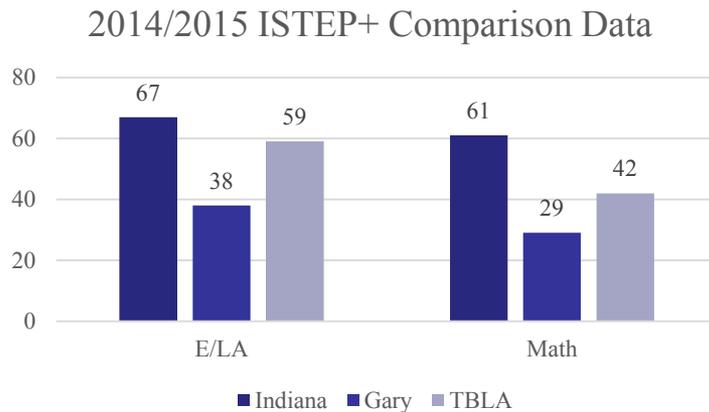
Response

- On March 28, 2016, the Drexel Board reconstituted itself. The new board now consists of members with experience in the following areas: Legal, Finance, Education, Community, and Business. A skill set summary matrix is shown below:

Board Members	School Leadership	Administration Governance, Legal	Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment	Financial and Business Operations	Performance Management	Parent and Community Engagement	Parent and Community Engagement
Tony Walker		X		X	X		X
Eve Gomez		X		X	X	X	
Cliff Goodin	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Richard Leverett		X		X			
Michael Suggs		X	X	X	X		X

Deficiency : Decline in Academic Performance

- It is important to acknowledge that while TBLA has had declining academic performance, it has also generally outperformed the other schools in the corporation, both charter and traditional public schools.



Response

- This decline in academic performance will be addressed through a partnership with Phalen Leadership Academy. Currently, Phalen Leadership Academy 1 (PLA-1) in Indianapolis, has demonstrated strong academic performance. It has outperformed comparable Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) on Math, ELA, and IREAD-3 passages rates, and has outperformed other public schools with the exception of the Butler Laboratory School, an IPS magnet school, which outperformed PLA-1 on Math passage by 6% points.

Deficiency : Title I/II Compliance

- A lack of “highly qualified teachers”
- Improper or incorrect payment of instructional personnel from Title I and Title II funds
- A lack of financial and monitoring controls
- Failure to submit required reports
- Using federal funds for expenses that weren’t approved in the FY2016 grant
- Lack of compliance with the required Title I federal equipment and inventory list
- Missing or unaccounted for Title I equipment

Response

- According to the IDOE, many of the Title I Compliance issues can be addressed by TBLA through the addition of new personnel with a strong understanding of Federal Grant compliance
- Phalen Leadership Academy (PLA) will operate as TBLA’s new Education Service Provider, effective June 2016. PLA will oversee all federal financial reporting, management, oversight and legal compliance
- PLA will also have complete oversight of the hiring process, and will hire only highly-qualified staff, through a rigorous, multi-stage screening process



Questions?